	ON.16.04	Training for the Safe Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles by Youth under the Age of 16 Legislation
1 2	Whereas,	Ontario has no legislative requirement for safety training and certification of youth, parents/guardians and all-terrain vehicle private course operators; and
3 4	Whereas,	children and youth lack the knowledge, physical development, cognitive and motor skills to safely operate these vehicles; and
5 6 7 8	Whereas,	Canadian studies demonstrate the clear threat that the operation of all-terrain vehicles pose to the health and safety of children and youth who are at greater risk for off-road vehicle injuries and death from riding or operating an all-terrain vehicle; therefore be it
9 10 11 12 13	Resolved,	that the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 69th annual convention assembled, urge the Ontario Provincial Government to amend the Off-Road Vehicle Act to require mandatory safety training courses to govern the recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by youth under the age of 16.

ON.16.04 Training for the Safe Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles by Youth under the Age of 16 Legislation

BRIEF

- 1 Over the last three decades the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) for recreational use, on-road and
- 2 off-road riding, has increased significantly. In addition, death and injuries due to use of all-
- 3 terrain vehicles by youth under the age of 16 are a disturbing trend (Lord S., Tator C.H., Wells
- 4 S.). Ontario has a minimum operating age of 16 years for ATV use on roads or crossing roads.
- 5 This does not apply to youth operating or riding ATVs on private land or competition circuits.
- 6 Ontario has no requirements for safety training for youth under the age of 16 (Ont. Reg. 316/03).
- 7 Both the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons cite
- 8 youth under the age of 16 lack the knowledge, physical size, weight and cognitive or motor skills
- 9 to operate an all-terrain vehicle safely (OMA) (CAPS Trauma Committee). Multiple injuries,
- including head trauma, splenic (spleen) injuries and bone fractures, have been documented by
- 11 hospitals in Ontario (Alawi K., Lynch T., Lim R.) (Huchcroft S.A., McGowan C.R.). A review
- of consumer products in Canada noted that there is a trend of an increase in serious accidents
- involving ATVs resulting in 20% of injured people being hospitalized and 50% of ATV accidents
- having been caused by inappropriate or risky use of the ATV (Huchcroft, S. et al) (Public Health
- 15 Agency of Canada).
- Although Ontario does have regulations stating the need for adult supervision of youth under the
- age of 12, supervision is not defined. In Nova Scotia, youth under the age of 16 must remain in
- 18 the sight of a parent/guardian while operating an ATV and the youth as well as the
- 19 parent/guardian must show proof that both have passed the approved training course. The
- responsibility for remaining in the sight of the parent/guardian is with both the child/youth and
- 21 the parent/guardian (Nova Scotia, OHVA). In Newfoundland and Labrador, a youth under the
- age of 16 is not permitted to operate an ATV in the province. An exemption is made if the
- person has attained the age of 14 years, is operating an ATV with an engine size of 90 CC or less,
- 24 and is accompanied by and supervised by a person who is 19 years of age or older.
- 25 'Accompanied' and 'supervised' are defined as having visual and voice communication with the
- operator (Newfoundland and Labrador Regulations).
- 27 The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) sent a resolution in 2006 to the Ontario
- 28 government to amend the Off-Road Vehicle Act (ORVA). The OPHA concluded that legislative
- 29 changes were needed and they cited the legislation existing in the province of New Brunswick
- 30 (OPHA Resolution). In New Brunswick and elsewhere, safety training programs are a
- 31 requirement for all ATV operators.
- 32 Recommendations from government departments or manufacturers lack the enforcement needed
- 33 to ensure safety standards for the training and supervision of youth under the age of 16 operating
- or riding an ATV for recreational purposes. Regulations requiring training for the safe operation
- of ATVs must be put in place in the province of Ontario that protect youth under the age of 16
- 36 from serious injury or death.

ON.16.04 Training for the Safe Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles by Youth under the Age of 16 Legislation

ACTION PLAN

- 1. Write to the Premier, Minister of Transportation and local members of the provincial legislature urging the Ontario Provincial government to amend the Ontario Off-Road Vehicle Act to require mandatory safety training courses.
- 2. Educate members on the importance of safety training for youth under the age of 16 years.
- 3. Support individuals and groups who are petitioning the Ontario Provincial Government for changes to the Ontario Off-Road Vehicle Act in respect to youth under the age of 16 years.
- 4. Monitor government's responses to the request contained in the resolution.

ON.16.04 Training for the Safe Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles by Youth under the Age of 16 Legislation

WORKS CITED/CONSOLTED

Alawi K., Lynch T, Lim R. All-Terrain Vehicle Major Injury Patterns in Children: A Five-Year Review in Southwestern Ontario. [Abstract] Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine 2006 Jul;8(4):277-80. Web http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17324309

Huchcroft, S. A.; McGowan C.R.; Injuries Related to Consumer Products in Canada-A Systematic Literature Review Journal of Chronic and Injuries in Canada Vol. 33, No. 3, June 2013 pg. 182 http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/hpcdp-pspmc/33-3/assets/pdf/CDIC_MCC_Vol33_3_8_Huchcroft_E.pdf

Lord S., Tator CH., Wells S. Examining Ontario Deaths Due to All - Terrain Vehicles and Targets for Prevention. [Abstract] Canadian Journal of Neurology 2010 May; 37(3):343-9. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20481268

Ministry of Transportation Ontario. Smart Ride Safe Ride Pamphlet. n.d. web http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/driver/pdfs/smart-ride-safe-ride-ATV.pdf

Newfoundland & Labrador. Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain V Regulations. 1163/1996, Reg. Sec. 8:2-5 www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc961163.htm

Nova Scotia. Provincial Rules & Regulations. 1989 Chapter. 323 –Sec. 11 -1-4; 11A; 12E (1) http://novascotia.ca/natr/ohv/handbook/pdf/7RandR.pdf

Ontario Medical Association. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Children's Safety. Medical Review September 2009 page 1 https://www.oma.org/Resources/Documents/2009ATVSANDchildren'sSafety.pdf.

Ontario Ministry of Transport. Off-Road Vehicles Act Revised Statutes of Ontario. 1990, Chapter.4 http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90o04

Ontario Public Health Association Resolution. 2006-05. Amending Ontario's Off-Road Vehicle Act: a Resolution Adopted by the Ontario Public Health Association page: http://www.opha.on.ca/getmedia/2744679b-aec7-472b-bdcc-3ff8ea25a33c/2006-05_res.pdf.

Public Health Agency of Canada Emergency Department Surveillance: Archived web. 2011.11.08

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/injury-bles/chirpp/injrep-rapbles/pdf/highway-eng.pdf

Yanchar N.; Canadian Paediatric Society, Injury Prevention Committee. Position Paper: Preventing injuries from all-terrain vehicles. Posted Aug. 30, 2012 web. http://www.cps.ca/documents/position/preventing-injury-from-atvs